managing the zones. Such inputs are kept in mind while drawing up policy/procedures in this respect.

Foreign Exchange through Exports

*331. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of export items which are a major source of foreign exchange for the country;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned during 1991–92, item-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to further promote the export of those items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). The details of export items which are a major source of foreign exchange earning, and the amount of foreign exchange earned, item–wise, during April–December, 1991, the period for which the trade data is currently available, are given below:–

Sl. No.	*Major Export Items*	*Export Earnings during April – December, 1991*
		(In Rs. Crores)
1.	Gems & Jewellery	4739
2.	Readymade Garments	3531
3.	Chemicals & Related Products	3291
4.	Engineering Goods	3260
5.	Cotton Yarn fabrics & Made-ups	2278
6.	Leather & manufacturers	2237
7.	Ores & Minerals	1640
8.	Marine Products	989
9.	Carpets	865
10.	Tea	835
11.	Petroleum Products	645
12.	Man-made Textiles	551
13.	Cashew incl. CNSL	515
14.	Oil meals	514

Sl. No.	*Major Export Items*	*Export Earnings during April – December, 1991*
		(In Rs. Crores)
15.	Processed Food	468
16.	Rice	459
17.	Handicrafts	428
18.	Electronics & Computer Software	393
19.	Tobacco	300
20.	Cotton Raw	298
21.	Jute Manufactures	298
22.	Spices	248
23.	Natural Silk Textiles	245
24.	Coffee	206
25.	Meat & Meat Products	156

(c) Several changes in trade policy were introduced in July/August., 1991, aimed at strengthening export incentives, eliminating a substantial volume of import licensing and optional import compression. Barring essential imports of sensitive items like POL, fertilizers, etc., all other imports of raw materials and components were linked to export performance, REP licences were replaced by Eximscrips. The advance licences as an instrument of export promotion has been strengthened, by reducing discretionary controls and delays. The procedure for import of capital goods has been strengthened. The EPZ and 100% EOU schemes have been revamped. A number of export and import items have been decanalized. Exporters have been allowed to open foreign currency accounts in approved banks and to raise external credits, pay for export related imports from such accounts and credit export proceeds to such accounts.

These reforms have been further deepened by the partial convertibility of Rupee which is a further step towards convertibility of Rupee than Eximscrips. To increase competitiveness in industry and export production, import tariff rates have been reduced. Besides, the Government has taken other steps which include reducing controls through licensing, simplification of procedures for export, activisation of Board of Trade, bilateral discussions with select countries, interaction with national organisations of Trade and Industry, etc.